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# MASSACHUSETTS FARMER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET, W. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

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Editor at his own risk.

Advertisements on reasonable terms.

## AGRICULTURE.

### ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE.

Do we make any progress in the art of farming,

or are we stationary? This is an important inquiry

for farmers, as all are directly interested in the

question. Do we grow more grain or hay on the same

quantity of land than we did fifty years ago? Do

we raise better stock, or can we perform the labor

as much more easily and cheaply than we did

in former days?

We propose, now that the season is past, to

look into this matter a little, and see how the land

at the present time stands in Bridgewater, Plymouth

county, the president of the society, Rev. M. Allen,

remarked, that within thirty years past, much

improvement has been made in Plymouth county

that twice as much hay per acre is now grown as

formerly. This may be so on the average, though

we are inclined to think that some of our best

farmers grow as much corn on an acre as they

now do. But the general average is now higher

than it was thirty years ago. The fact is, we must

grow more crops of corn. We must not attempt

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I desire, by all means, to do those gentlemen,

(what a good right they do to the same) justice,

who yesterday governed their teams with

case and silence.

Walking with a friend round the field we

came, at one time, within a few rods of a team

just "coming out." I thought the cattle were

doing their utmost, when, all at once, the driver

broke out like a fop, and, waving his whip

with a very "happy effort" over their whirling

backs.

"Come," said my friend, "not this way and

see a man, I've been watching for some time and

have not heard him say a word or strike a blow."

There were several horse teams, yesterday.

This is something of a new feature at our shows,

but common in other countries. I have so much

faith in the ground feed, while we have such

dry seasons, that I can hardly believe a

single pair of horses or oxen, even, is team

enough. Ploughing is very hard work. There

is no "down hill" or "level land," but contin-

ually a "up grade." Teams are very often, in

spring, "dragged down" by ploughing.

After the teams were mostly down yesterday,

I walked up to look at the ploughs and teams

and spoke with my friends, who had followed

me from the show.

One young man had a face as red as a Bal-

dwin apple. He was wiping his brow, and look-

ed as if he had been "running with the engine."

The next team had just finished. I spoke to the

driver, who was actually gasping for breath.

Was there a necessity for such foolish expedi-

tion? I have not a word to say to the premiums on

Live Stock, except of commendation for the

choice of the best of the breed brought to the Pens

for sale.

With regard to the Address: What ought to

be the character? Ought it to please for the hour

or for the year? Ought it to have high

literary merit or be characterized by sound, prac-

tical truth? Is the production of a scholar, or

of the profession, or of a good common sense

man? The valuable seems to be the opportunity

presented by the assembling of so many yeomen

to impart useful information; to make important

suggestions, and state facts; the result of wise

study and judicious experience. Ought it to be

in no way different from the highest enjoy-

ment of this holiday, that valuable information

is gained. Much is said about the importance

of growing fruit. How often do we hear an al-

lusion drawn from the fact that a farmer has

the Society award large premiums for results,

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long familiarity with the various species will en-

able the farmer to select the most marketable.

At Bridgewater and at Taunton, the same com-

plaints were heard of a want of room. For our

own part we despaired of giving a particular

account of the fruits and of the articles of home

manufacture, and throughout them to the whole Amer-

ican people. He referred to the article of wool,

said that there were already in the hands of the

Committee, six new inventions worthy of the

highest honors which the Institute could bestow

upon them, and also referred to the culture of the

apple, and its extended introduction into the

various nations of the earth. Stated that at

Castle Garden, there were no less than 25,000

specimens of the Pomological Convention, were to be

shown. He referred to the steel as used by the

American boys at Mexico, at Monterey and

Chihuahua, and concluded by announcing to

the audience, that the Washington Hunt

had telegraphed, and that he would not come, and

that his place had been supplied by Dr. Stephen H.

Tyng of this city, who would deliver the Anni-

versary Address. A patriotic song was sung

by the ladies, and then Dr. Tyng introduced



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